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1. After completion of the assignment in Karachayevskaya Autonomous Oblast in November 1943  and immediately following the celebration of the October Revolution on 7 and 8 November 1943, the 95th Border Guard Regiment,  received orders to proceed to Kalmyk ASSR. Although the purpose of this movement was not revealed,  we suspected that the regiment would receive an assignment similar to the one in Karachayevskaya Autonomous Oblast, i.e., the resettlement of the population of Kalmyk ASSR.

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2. We left the village of Verkhaya Mara  around 10 November 1943 and were transported by truck to the Cherkessk railroad station , where we remained for two days. From here the 95th Regiment was transported by train to Divnoye , where we remained for approximately two weeks. The entire regiment was quartered in school and administrative buildings, and in private requisitioned houses. The population of Divnoye consisted mostly of former Russian and Ukrainian rich farmers (kulaki) who had been resettled to this area during the USSR collectivization reform in the early 1930's. No particular activity was carried out by the regiment while in Divnoye; some classes were held and there was combat training . As far as I remember, the 95th Regiment was the only troop unit stationed in or around Divnoye at that time.

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3. Early in December 1943 the preparatory orders for the regiment arrived. A briefing [redacted] was held in regimental headquarters by the regimental CO, Lt. Col. UMANETS. He informed us [redacted] in accordance with a decision of the government, the indigenous population of Kalmyk ASSR was to be resettled in remote regions of the USSR for their treacherous attitude, for sabotage of war efforts, and for their collaboration with the German-Fascist invading army during the occupation. Lt. Col. UMANETS also told us that in several days the 95th Regiment would proceed to Troitskoye N 46-26, E 44-157, which was located approximately in the center of the area assigned to the regiment for the performance of the task. He further mentioned that there was in Troitskoye a state security (GosBezopasnost) lieutenant colonel, NKVD or NKGB, from Moscow, whose name I do not recall, who was in charge of the operation in the area of Troitskoye. It was our understanding that this NKVD officer was entrusted with the operation and that the 95th Regiment had actually been put at his disposal. At this briefing we also learned that the supreme headquarters for the entire Kalmyk ASSR operation was located in Stepnoy N 46-16, E 44-147, at that time called Elista. We were instructed not to reveal the pending operation [redacted] until the eve of its execution. 50X1
  4. Around 5 December 1943 the 95th Regiment proceeded by truck from Divnoye to Troitskoye, where it was billeted in school buildings and in private houses. The area assigned to the regiment covered approximately 400 sq. km., and its boundaries ran north of Stepnoy and Gashun Buluk, east of Leninskiy, north of Dolom Buluk, Krasnyy, Yashkul'skiye, and east of Khashkhaner and Yarta see Encl. A/. Troitskoye, which was composed of some 300 or more households, was the only large center included in the area assigned to the 95th Regiment. There were other, small settlements, composed of a few to several dozen households, whose inhabitants were engaged in sheep raising, wool production, and dairy farming. Many NKVD or NKGB operational personnel (operativnyy sostav), all officers (some of them state security officers), were already in the area preparing detailed lists of the indigenous inhabitants. There were many Russian settlers in this area, especially in Troitskoye, which was the seat of administration for Troitskiy Rayon. The resettlement decree did not apply to them, but only to the Kalmyki; therefore, when preparing lists for deportation, Russian nationals were omitted.
  5. We remained in Troitskoye for approximately three weeks, familiarizing ourselves with the area, reconnoitering roads and paths leading to the various settlements, and assisting NKVD operational officers in compiling lists of the Kalmyk population. At the same time, troops were trained in night and day alerts, blocking of roads, and encirclement of villages. However, since the Kalmyki were known to be a very peaceful, phlegmatic, and obedient people, no resistance was anticipated. No trenches were dug around inhabited localities nor machine gun emplacements prepared. During this preparatory period Lt. Col. UMANETS was in constant contact with the state security lieutenant colonel in Troitskoye. The latter often traveled to Stepnoy to report to the operational headquarters located there.
  6. Three or four days before Christmas 1943 the executive order was given. Enlisted personnel were informed, and the next night final disposition of the troops was made. The operation was carried out in a way similar to that which I described in the deportation of the population of Karachayevskaya Autonomous Oblast. Each NKVD 50X1 operational officer was assigned several soldiers from the 95th Regiment, and each of these groups went to the individual villages and settlements to collect the Kalmyk population and to transport them for deportation to the Divnoye railroad station. The village of Troitskoye was divided into many small sections, consisting of two,

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three, or four houses; each section was covered by a detail of one NKVD operational officer and several soldiers. Quite a number of the junior officers of the 95th Regiment were used as detail commanders instead of the NKVD operational personnel; this was because there were not enough of the latter. At sunrise all details were in their positions and the deportation was performed exactly in the same way as in the case of the Karachayevtsy, i.e., the governmental decree was read to each family, one hour was given to prepare for travel, and property allowed to be taken along was limited to 100 kg. per family.

7. Although the operation came as a complete surprise to the indigenous population, the Kalmyki accepted their fate with much more resignation than had the Karachayevtsy. Without much protest they collected their few belongings and permitted themselves to be herded like cattle onto the trucks which would take them away. I believe, though, that this attitude of resignation made a far greater impression on the personnel conducting the operation than all the excitement which had accompanied the deportation of the Karachayevtsy. I think that anybody with a spot of decent human pity in his soul would have felt pretty rotten to witness this measure of the regime - war or no war.
8. Approximately 175 to 200 families (around 1,000 people) from the village of Troitskoye alone were deported that day. I guess the total number of Kalmyki deported from the area assigned to the 95th Regiment probably amounted to 4,000 or 5,000 people.

## ENCLOSURE:

- A. Area of Operation of the 95th Border Guards Regiment in Kalmyk ASSR in December 1943

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ENCLOSURE A:

Area of Operation of the 95th Border Guards Regiment in Kalmyk ASSR in December 1943, Map: NL 38-5 AMS Series N501, Scale 1:250,000

